RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 8th December, 1998
17 Agrahayana, 1920 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock **Mr. Chairman** *in the Chair.*

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Modernisation of Textile Technology

†*121. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to modernise the textile technology; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRM RANA): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is a proposal of the Government of India which is under finalisation to facilitate modernisation through technological upgradation with a view to enhancing viability and competitiveness of the textile industry. Under the Scheme to Technology Upgradation Fund, an interest incentive of 5 percentage points on loan availed of from designated (Nodal) financial institutions/banks is proposed to be provided to the eligible units in the identified sectors of textile industry. The interest incentive would be reimbursed to these Nodal Financial Institutions through the budget provisions of the Ministry of Textiles.

Recession in Textile Industry

†*135. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:††
SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether imports in India have increased sharply during the first four months of the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to save the domestic textile industry mired in crisis due to recession in demand?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) A statement is laid of the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The import of textile products during the first four months of the current year (i.e. April — July, 1998) amounted to US dollars 309.84 million (provisional) showing an increase of 8.7% over the corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) In the various WTO agreements, there are provisions whereby any member country, including India, can take safeguard measures against cheap imports. Government has been closely watching the import trends of textile products and if the need arises Government can initiate necessary steps for containing such imports.

A proposal is under consideration to launch a Fund for Technology Upgradation in identified sectors of the textile industry in order to make it more competitive. Another proposal is under consideration to launch a Technology Mission for cotton which would also benefit the textile industry. Government has also been taking measures to encourage exports of textile products. In the wake of depressed demand for cotton yarn in the international market, conditions governing production of cotton yarn for export have been relaxed.

Government have also constituted an Expert Committee to give recommendations for a new Textile Policy

श्री खान गुफ़रान ज़ाहिदी: क्या माननीय मंत्री जी बताएंगे कि टैक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री में मॉडर्नाइज़ेशन की बात आप कर रहे हैं, उस से तो सारे मिल बंद पड़े हुए हैं और उन में काम नहीं हो रहा है। कानपुर में काफी

†Question Nos. 121 and 135 were taken together.

††The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Jayaprada Nahata.

मिल्स बंद हो रही हैं और वहां माडर्नाइजेशन नहीं हो रहा है, तो आप के पास कोई योजना है कि कब, कहां और किस तरह मॉडर्नाइजेशन होगा? कैसे हम अपने प्रोडक्ट्स को कम्पटीटिव बनाएंगे? सर, बाहर से बहुत तेजी से इम्पोर्ट हो रहा है और पिछले 4 महीने में बहुत अधिक इम्पोर्ट हुआ है जिस कारण हमारी इंडस्ट्री डम्प हो रही है और हमारा टैक्सटाइल का माल नहीं निकल रहा है वहीं दूसरी ओर आप की मॉडर्नाइजेशन की योजना सामने नहीं आ रही है। आप हम को तय बता दें कि कब तक मॉडर्नाइजेशन हो जाएगा, कब तक यह रिटेनमेंट का सिलसिला बंद होगा और कब कानपुर की मिल खुलेंगी?

श्री काशीराम राणा: सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य ने जो सवाल उठाया है, मुझे लगता है कि वह शायद कानपुर की एन०टी०सी० मिल के बारे में पूछ रहे हैं। सर, जहां तक मॉडर्नाइजेशन का सवाल है, सभी मिलों को बराबर चलाने और इतना ही नहीं टैक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री में जो अभी रेसेशन पीरिएड चल रहा है, उस में से उसे बाहर लाने के लिए और उस के साथ-साथ आने वाले दिनों में जब हमारा ए०टी०सी० जनवरी, 2005 में खत्म हो जाएगा तब तक हमारी इंडस्ट्री का उस के साथ कम्पटीशन बढ़ाने के लिए मॉडर्नाइजेशन फंड बनाया गया है। सर, जहां तक उस के इम्प्लीमेंटेशन का सवाल है, उस को ग्रुप ऑफ मिनिस्टर्स ने यूनानिमसली एप्रूव कर दिया है और मुझे लगता है कि बहुत जल्द यह टैक्नॉलोजी अपग्रेडेशन फंड जोकि 25 हजार करोड़ का होगा व जो भी बेनेफिसरी होगा या जो लाभ लेना चाहता है, उस को इंटरेस्ट में 5 परसेंट सबसिडी के स्वरूप में देंगे। इस के लिए सरकार 3 हजार करोड़ रुपया वहन करेगी और इस योजना को बहुत जल्द इम्प्लीमेंट करने के लिए वह संकल्पबद्ध है।

श्री खान गुफ़राम ज़ाहिदी: सर, आप के माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या मॉडर्नाइजेशन या अपग्रेडेशन ऑफ टैक्नोलोजी "एट द कॉस्ट ऑफ लेबर" हो रहा है क्योंकि सारी लेबर घरों में बैठी हुई है। वह बेकार है और यह सिलसिला सारी टैक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री में फैला हुआ है। तो क्या इस सिलसिले के संबंध में उन के पास कोई योजना है कि जो लेबर बेकर बैठी हुई है, उस को कैसे रोकेंगे, उस के खान-पीने की क्या व्यवस्था होगी और कैसे उन्हें भूखों मरने से बचाया जाएगा?

श्री काशीराम राणा: सर, जहां तक वर्कर्स का सवाल है, हम किसी वर्कर्स को बेकार नहीं बनाना चाहते हैं और न कॉस्ट ऑफ लेबर पर हम मॉडर्नाइजेशन करने जा रहे हैं। मॉडर्नाइजेशन से तो और भी रोजगारी निर्मित होगी। हम और भी एक्सपोर्ट रेवेन्यू हासिल कर सकेंगे। सर, मैं सदन के सामने एक जानकारी रखना चाहता हूं कि इस सब के बारे में हम कितना पीछे है। हमारे यहां करीब साढ़े 13 लाख पावरलूम्स बहुत पुराने लूम्स है जबकि ऑटोमेटिक ऐसे लूम्स है 38 हजार हैं। सर, मैं एक फिगर रखना चाहूंगा कि चाइना में 81834 शटल-लेस लूम्स है और 40 हजार शटल ऑटोमेटिक लूम्स है, कोरिया में 79,260 शटल-लेस है और 24,976 शटल लूम्स हैं। ताइवान जैसे छोटे से कंट्री में भी 31,340 शटल-लेस लूम्स हैं जबकि हमारे यहां भारत में शटल-लेस लूम्स की संख्या सिर्फ 7,804 है और शटल ऑटोमेटिक लूम्स सिर्फ 27000 हैं। साढ़े 13 लाख में से सिर्फ इतने हैं। तो हम चाहते है कि भारत में बना हुआ कपड़ा अच्छी क्वालिटी का हो और उस की कॉस्ट ऑफ प्रोडक्शन कम हो और इसी के लिए मॉडर्नाइजेशन फंड इस्तेमाल होगा।

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Sir, the answer given by the hon. Minister is not specific and in details. The textile imports have risen sharply. I would like to know the amount of imports made during April to July, 1996-97 and 1997-98 and the country from which they were imported. I would also like to know the reasons for the decline in exports during the corresponding periods. I would like to know these things in details.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, so far as import of fabrics is concerned, I certainly agree with the hon. Member. But I want to say that our imports during the period April to July, 1998, were to the tune of 309.84 million US dollars. There is an increase of 8.7%. But when we compare exports of fabrics with imports, it is very meagre in quantity. As the hon. Member says, our imports have really increased.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want to ask any second supplementary?

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: No, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Chandresh Kumari.

SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Sir, the Minister has given the figures. There is an increase of 8.7% in imports. Now the textile industry is totally labour-oriented. Our export is up to 30%. If they are going to import so much, they are going to dump all those stuff which come from other countries. What are the steps that the Government is going to take to prevent this dumping?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, the Government is going to take some steps to prevent the imports from abroad or foreign countries. There are some provisioins in the WTO and GATT. According to that, the Government has to import. Apart from that, we are monitoring the situation. The Government is watching the situation of import and export.

SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Sir, can I ask the second supplementary?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No second supplementary, please. Shri Chitharanjan.

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has prepared any scheme to modernise textile mills owned by the NTC. The NTC is a public sector undertaking. Has the Government got any plan and, if so, will he please give us the details?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, the Government has a plan to modernise the NTC mills and for that purpose the Government has formed a committee. The committee has submitted its report to the Government. So far as this report is concerned, the Government will consider it within a short time and the Government will try to modernise the NTC mills as early as possible.

श्री सतीश प्रधान: सभापति महोदय, मैं आदरणीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि हम टेक्नोलोजी इम्प्रूवमेंट की बात कर रहे हैं, तो हमारी जो यील्ड है उसमें पर हैक्टेयर कॉटन का प्रोडक्शन ज्यादा हो सके और अच्छी क्वालिटी का कॉटन निर्माण हो सके, इसके लिए आप क्या कर रहे हैं?

श्री काशीराम राणा: सभापति जी, हमारे माननीय सदस्य की बात सही है कि हमारा जो कॉटन है इसकी क्वालिटी विदेशी कॉटन से थोड़ी डिटोरिएट है और यील्ड भी कम है, लेकिन इसको बढ़ाने के लिए और क्वालिटी सुधारने के लिए सरकार ने एक कॉटन टेक्नोलोजी मिशन की शुरूआत की है, जो करीब 600 करोड़ रुपए का पूरा प्रोजेक्ट है, पूरी योजना है और जैसा कि माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने बजट पेश करते हुए हाऊस में कहा था, सदन में कहा था कि यह योजना तत्काल इम्प्लमेंट हो जाएगी और इसके लिए 60 करोड़ रुपए का प्रावधान उन्होंने बजट में किया है। इससे न सिर्फ हमारी क्वालिटी सुधरेगी बल्कि यील्ड भी अच्छी होगी। इतना ही नहीं इस कॉटन टैक्नोलॉजी मिशन के अंतर्गत हमारे कॉटन ग्रोवर किसानों को ज्यादा रेम्युनरेटिव प्राइस मिले, इसके लिए मार्किटिंग की व्यवस्था भी करेंगे और क्वालिटी सुधारने के लिए जो जीनिंग प्रैसिंग, जो कॉटन में कंटैमिनेशन की कम्प्लेंट आती है, उसको दूर करने के लिए, जीनिंग और प्रैसिंग मशीन्स सुधारने के लिए भी इस मिशन के जरिए हम फाइनेंस करेंगे।

SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Sir, there are many industries with very modern techniques which are relatively labour-intensive. The textiles industry is one of them. In our country, where unemployment is so much rampant, we have to give a major thrust to those industries which even after modernisation remain relatively labour-intensive. The hon. Minister has talked about China. India has been a traditional producer of textile goods. Traditionally, we have produced a veriety of very high quality products in this country. Yet, China's export share is four to five times more than India's export in dollar terms. Sir, successive Textile Ministers, whom I have heard, talked about modernisation and Committees. They have also talked about doing something without giving any time-frame. I personally feel that there is a lack of seriousness in this key sector which can be a major provider of employment in India which is one of our basic problems.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they are serious in this regard. I would also like to know whether the hon. Minister will give any

time-frame. When he quotes China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Korea, is there any attempt at all to catch up with these countries so that we can produce quality products? Recession is not an issue. World requires cloth. India requires a lot of cloth. There is recession because we are not producing quality products at the right price. The moment we are able to do that India will be a major exporter in the world market and we will be ahead of china, which is, at the moment, exporting more than the exports that we do.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member has raised three or four points. His first point was about seriousness on the part of the Government to implement modernisation schemes. I would like to say that the Government is very, very serious. Sir, our government has taken over just eight months ago. The previous Government did not do anything. Apart from that, we don't want to blame any Government. So far as modernisation is concerned, this Government is very serious. As I said earlier, technology upgradation will definitely come into force as early as possible. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: What is the time-frame?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: I am saying as early as possible, within a very short time. After the Group of Ministers approves it, the proposal will be put before the Cabinet. I am sure, it will be approved within a short time. The hon Member has also talked about China's share of exports. I agree that our global share of exports is only 2.9 per cent. China's share is more than 20 per cent. We are far behind. But, for the last so many years, no action or no steps have been taken to enhance our exports and to modernise the textiles industry. But this Government is very seriously working in that direction.

So far as employment is concerned, more than two crore persons are working in the textiles industry. The Government wants to create more employment through the textiles industry.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this seems to be a very extraordinary situation that when our textile industry was the first to export in a big way, now we are getting into a position where we are importing textiles from outside the country, and that too as the hon. Minister claims after sufficient amounts have been provided for modernistion, and he is going in a big way and he is very sincere about it. Sir, There are certain cases which, in fact, have been referred to the BIFR, and the BIFR itself has recommended to the Government saying that these are the textile mills where modernisation will definitely improve the results. As one of the hon. Members has said, there are certain areas where the textile industry is the only industry, and if that is closed, there will be a terrible amount of unemployment. Looking to this aspect of the question and looking also to the question of BIFR recommending for modernisation, what is the attitude of the Ministry towards this? And I am sure that the hon. Minister will look into the matter and try to resolve this issue as early as possible.

One thing which has to be borne in mind is whether there is any such thing that amounts earmarked for modernisation have been diverted for VRS purposes and that the entire amount has been totally exhausted; there is hardly any amount available for modernisation. If that be so, then, of course, there is a discrepancy between what the hon. Minister is stating on the floor of the House and what the facts are. I would be interested in finding out whether such a diversion has taken place. If that be so, then how is it that you are going to provide money for modernisation?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: So far as the question of modernisation fund is concerned, some financial agencies like the IDBI, SIDBI and the IFCI have agreed, and based on this agreement, the Government is going ahead. For instance,

the Government has proposed to create a Rs. 25,000 crore worth TUF scheme. There are three to four sectors. For the textiles industry, whatever money is required for modernisation, the IDBI has agreed to provide sufficient funds. For the powerloom sector, the SIDBI will be the nodal agency to finance. For the garment manfacturing sector, again the SIDBI will provide finance. For the cotton ginning and pressing sector, the SIDBI has agreed to provide finance. And for the jute industry, the IFCI will definitely provide finance. Sir, as far as BIFR is concerned, the Government will keep in mind the suggestion of the hon. Member. In NTC, there are nine subsidiaries. Out of nine subsidiaries, cases relating to eight subsidiaries are lying with the BIFR. So, we will keep the suggestion of the hon. Member in mind and resolve this problem.

SHRI SURESH A. KESWANI: The hon. Textile Minister will agree that due to the failure to modernise and up-date the textile technology, we have virtually killed our cotton textile industry, driving millions of workers out of jobs all over the country, leading to huge losses to the banking and financial institutions of the country and, finally, driving the cotton growers to commit suicide because they cannot pay their debts due to their impoverished condition. We are now witnessing the death of polyester fibre and yarn manufacturing companies also because the down-stream textile manufacturing industry has not developed adequately. The unplanned growth, without any upgraded technology is responsible for virtually getting us out of the international fabric market leading us now to progressively go on increasing the quantum of textile imports.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put a specific question to him.

SHRI SURESH A. KESWANI: Will the hon. Minister explain (a) whether there is really any objective and realistic textile policy being proposed by the Government? Does that policy take into account the growth potential of the cotton crop in the country and remunerative prices to the growers of cotton? Does that policy guarantee creation of jobs for all those who lost their jobs because of the delay in the textile technology upgradation? Does the proposed policy, if any, ensure utilisation of the installed fibre, filament and textile fabric capacity in the synthetic textile industry? The (b) part of my question is; what realistic global market share—about which you were just now talking-is aimed at? Has any serious thinking been done on the subject? If yes, can the Minister explain as to what is the size of the global textile market and what share realistically we can acquire in the next ten years, keeping in view the constraints under which we will have to operate and the attitude of the financial institutions which is so much different from what the Minister has been just telling us?

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not a question. You have put 10-15 questions. That cannot be answered together. You should have put a specific question. For the other questions, you should write to the Minister and get the reply. If need be, we can have a half-an-hour discussion on this. This is not the way to put questions.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Sir, the textile industry in large part of the country is facing a crisis. What is the number of industries closed and can you tell me how many workers are going to be thrown out of their jobs? There are industries which are to be revived, according to the proposal by experts in India. What is your attitude to the revival of those industries which are in a crisis? Kindly give me an answer.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, so far as revival is concerned, the Government is going to create a Technology Upgradation Fund. That is the only alternative to revive this. The textile industry is dying day by day. So, the Government is very sincere. The Government is also serious in providing TUF to the beneficiaries just for the revival of the textile industry.

SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI: Sir, the Minister in his reply to both these questions has emphasised the importance of textile upgradation. Part (a) of my question is; when will, or, by what time, the fund for technology upgradation come into operation? Secondly, what are the sectors, the word used is identified sectors of textile industry, which have been identified and what are the criteria for identifying the sectors in the textile industry?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, so far as the fund for technology upgradation is concerned, the question raised by the hon. Member was 'when will it start'? Sir, as per the approval by a Group of Ministers of this scheme, it will come into force by 1st April, 1999. The approval is by a Group of Ministers. The Cabinet approval has not come. So far as the TUF is concerned, the Finance Minster has already earmarked one crore of rupees. Ultimately, there is a raise in the Budget for this Technology Upgradation Fund. So, there is no difficulty to enhance technology upgradation.

प्रो॰ राम गोपाल यादव: महोदय, अभी माननीय मंत्री जी एक सप्लीमेंटरी प्रश्न का जवाब देते हुए कह रहे थे कि माडर्नाइजेशन जब होगा तो रोजगार भी बढ़ेगा जब कि वास्तविकता यह है कि आटोमेटाईज़ेशन और जितनी भी आधुनिकीकरण की चीजें हैं, उनकी नीयत ही बेरोजगारी बढ़ाने वाली है और नतीजा यह है—अभी मैं पिछले दिनों भिवंडी गया था तो लोग बता रहे थे कि आधुनिकीकरण के नाम पर आधे से ज्यादा करघों, पॉवरलूम्स पर काम करने वाले लोग बेकार होते जा रहे हैं। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि आधुनिकीकरण के साथ-साथ लोगों के रोजगार में कोई कमी न आने पाए और यह देश जिसमें मैन पॉवर की कोई कमी नहीं है, आपके पास कैपीटल की कमी है, ऐसी योजना बननी चाहिए जिससे लोगों को रोजगार ज्यादा मिले। माडर्नाइजेशन हो लेकिन लोगों को रोजगार मिलता रहे, इसके लिए क्या योजना आप बनाएंगे?

श्री काशीराम राणा: सर, जैसा मैंने बताया कि माडर्नाइजेशन फंड से सिर्फ हमारी मशीनरी माडर्नाइज नहीं होगी बल्कि इससे रोजगार भी बढ़ेगा। मैं एक उदाहरण देना चाहता हूं। सातवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में हमने ऐसा ही माडर्नाइजेशन फंड शुरू किया था। वह करीब 750 करोड़ रुपये का था लेकिन बाद में उसका जो टारगेट तय हुआ वह 1288.5 करोड़ तय हुआ और उसमें से गवर्नमेंट ने 897.48 करोड़ डिसपर्स किया। इससे जो फायदा हुआ, वह मैं आपके सामने लाना चाहता हूं। 1986-87 में सातवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में माडर्नाइजेशन की शुरूआत हुई तो हमारे यहां जो नम्बर ऑफ मिल्स थीं, वह 744 थी जब कि वह बढ़कर आज 2290 हो गयी हैं। इसमें ज्यादातर फायदा स्पिनिंग मिल्स ने उठाया था। 2290 हमारी स्पिनिंग मिलें हुईं तो इससे रोजगार बढ़ा। इतना ही नहीं, जो हमारा प्रोडक्शन था। जब माडर्नाइजेशन की शुरूआत हुई, तब वह प्रोडक्शन 86-87 में सिर्फ 1302 मिलियन किलोग्राम था, वह आज बढ़कर 2213 मिलियन किलोग्राम हो गया है। इतना ही नहीं, इसकी क्वालिटी में भी सुधार हुआ है, क्वालिटी अच्छी हुई है जिससे हमारे ऐक्सपोर्ट में बढ़ोत्तरी हो गयी है। 27.98 मिलियन किलोग्राम जो हम एक्सपोर्ट कर रहे थे, उसकी जगह आज 485.44 मिलियन किलोग्राम एक्सपोर्ट कर रहे हैं। तो इस माडर्नाइजेशन से सिर्फ मशीन का ही माडर्नाइजेशन नहीं होगा, इससे रोजगार भी अवश्य बढ़ेगा।

*122 *[The questioner (Shri Naresh Yadav) was absent. For answer, vide col 29 infra.]*

श्री सभापति: क्वैश्चन नं॰ 123, श्री डी॰पी॰ यादव।

प्रमुख पत्तनों से हुई आमदनी

*123. श्री डी॰ पी॰ यादव: क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश के सभी प्रमुख पत्तनों से सरकार को कुल कितनी आमदनी हुई;

(ख) क्या यह राशि गत वर्ष की तुलना में अधिक है, और

(ग) चालू वर्ष में पत्तनों के रखरखाव पर सरकार द्वारा कुल कितनी राशि व्यय की गई और उसका ब्यौरा क्या है?

विधि, न्याय और कंपनी कार्य मंत्री तथा जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री (श्री एम॰ थम्बी दुरई): (क) और (ख) महापत्तनों से सरकार को कोई आय नहीं होती।